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Rep. Luján Calls for Accurate Census, Recognizes Census Workers

*Rep. Luján sends letter to Census Workers for Census Operations opening in Albuquerque*

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján sent a letter to be read at the official opening of the 2010 Census Operations in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the letter, Luján discussed the importance of the Census and recognized the Census workers who will undertake the task.

"It is critically important for the people of New Mexico to be part of an accurate and vigorously reviewed Census," Luján said. "I have great appreciation and respect for the work you will undertake to ensure that every American is counted, and I have full faith in your working hard to achieve your mission."

The Census Operations office will open today at 11:00 am (MT) to begin work on the 2010 Census. The New Mexico Census office will be located at 505 Central Avenue, Albuquerque, New Mexico. An office will open in Santa Fe later this year. The results of the 2010 Census will be an important factor in the distribution of federal funding.

Full Letter:

Dear Sirs,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to you today to wish you well in the kick-off for the 2010 Census. The Census has been an invaluable tool for the continued health and growth of our country ever since the first Census was conducted in 1790 under Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. Today, New Mexico will rely on your work for accurate representation and critical planning research that will affect generations to come.

The importance of ensuring that every American is counted has far greater ramifications than just completing an accurate count of the population of the United States. The Census is the basis for the allocation of billions of dollars of federal, state, and county funds for social and other programs. It is used for urban planning and rural development, for determining the best locations for new schools and hospitals, planning for public transportation services, developing assistance programs for low-income families, planning health and education services, and attracting new businesses to state and local communities. Additionally, the Census determines the districts for the state legislature and the number of seats that New Mexico will have in the United States Congress--directly affecting our representation and our state's voice in our government. It is critically important for the people of New Mexico to be part of an accurate and vigorously reviewed Census.

I have great appreciation and respect for the work you will undertake to ensure that every American is counted, and I have full faith in your working hard to achieve your mission. If my office can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Congressman Ben Ray Luján  
3rd Congressional District  
New Mexico

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